



On March 22, the United Nations will mark International World Water Day, a day to celebrate freshwater and recognize its impact in our lives. Each year, the UN focuses on a different water theme, and this year we will be exploring the significance of water and food security. The link between water and food is clear: drought is the most common cause of food shortages in developing countries. As an agricultural state, we must also be aware of the impact of water on food and crop production at the local level. For example, it takes fifteen thousand liters of water to produce just one kilogram of beef! Due to climate change, increased food costs, and growing competition over access to fresh water, issues related to water and food security are more pressing than ever.

We would like to invite you to participate in the **Illinois World Water Day of Service**. Colleges and Universities around the State will be engaging in service, and we would love your school's students to join us! Encourage students and student organizations to participate in volunteer activities related to this year's theme: Water and Food Security.

We will post pictures of service events on our website and feature your school in our press release. Can we count you in for this exciting international event? For more information about world water day, please visit:

<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/index.html>

Please email Robbie at robert.dembo@illinois.gov for more information and to confirm your school's participation.

Thank you for your support.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR





Frequency Asked Questions

1) What should students do to celebrate Illinois World Water Day of Service?

- Students should plan a service event that addresses this year's theme: Water and Food Security.

2) What are some examples of possible service events?

- Organize a canned food drive.
- Stage an educational event promoting water conservation.
- Volunteer in a soup kitchen.
- Hold a panel discussion on campus issues related to water and food security.

3) When should we hold service events?

- Ideally on UN World Water Day: **March 22nd, 2012**
- If the 22nd is not possible, please hold your event within a week of World Water Day.

4) How many people should participate?

- As many as possible! There is no required number of participants.

5) How will our institution be recognized?

- Send the Governor's Office (Robert.Dembo@Illinois.gov) a description of your service event (i.e. # of participants, activity, outcome, etc.). Please provide photos if possible.
- Your participation will be recognized in official press materials and will be promoted across Illinois.